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Amendment to the Specification:

Prior to examination, please amend the specification as follows.

Insert a new paragraph beginning on page 1, line 2, as follows:

--CLAIM OF PRIORITY

This application claims priority under 35 USC 371 to International Application No. PCT/JP2004/019324, filed on December 24, 2004, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-426798, filed on December 24, 2003, each of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 5 as follows:

In the two-dimensional image display device according to the third embodiment, the polarization state modulator 6 and the birefringent diffusion plate 7e-7e which constitute the speckle noise removal optical system of the second embodiment are integrated. Other constituents of the third embodiment are identical to those of the second embodiment.